

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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P R 171545Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1486

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, SY, US, UR

SUBJECT: SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH AL-NAHAR

REF CAIRO 412

1. IN THIRD IMPORTANT INTERVIEW WITHIN SPACE OF TEN DAYS, SADAT DISCUSSED EGYPT'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH AL-NAHAR'S GHASSAN TWEINI. ACCORDING TO CAIRO PRESS JAN 17, PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTED THREE ISSUES:

A. PARTIAL SOLUTION. PRESIDENT SAID HE WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON ALL THREE FRONTS WITHIN NEXT THREE MONTHS. THIS IS DECISIVE YEAR BECAUSE 1976 IS ELECTION YEAR IN US. IF NOTHING IS ACCOMPLISHED "VERY SOON", ALL ARABS, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, WILL GO TO GENEVA AND "EXPLODE EVERYTHING THERE". PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT "IT WOULD BE TREASON TO REFUSE TO TAKE BACK OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY WHICH

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ENEMY MIGHT RETURN".

B. ISRAELI ATTACK ON SYRIA. IF ISRAEL ATTACKS SYRIA, EGYPT WILL IMMEDIATELY STEP IN, ND USG KNOWS IT.

C. PLO/GOE. THERE IS AND CAN BE NO "CONTRADICTION" BETWEEN EGYPT AND PALESTINIANS. AVOIDING DIRECT CRITICISM OF PLO'S RECENT "CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT" (SEE REFTTEL), PRESIDENT MERELY NOTED THAT "RESPONSIBLE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP IS CALLED ON TO GIVE PEACEFUL EFFORTS IN NEXT STAGE EVERY CHANCE". ACCORDING TO TWEINI, PRESIDENT HAS ADVISED PALESTINIANS TO BE PATIENT.

2. COMMENTING ON GOE RELATIONS WITH SUPERPOWERS, PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY NOTED EGYPT IS NON-ALIGNED AND REFUSES TO BE PART OF ANY COUNTRY'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE. HE ADDED, SIGNIFICANTLY: "IF SOVIETS WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR IMAGE IN ARAB WORLD, THEY SHOULD HONOR THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER EGYPT/SOVIET TREATY."

3. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT PRESIDENT SADAT CLEARLY INTENDED THIS INTERVIEW TO SERVE AS A COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST PLO ANTI-GOE FOREIGN POLICY "CAMPAIGN", EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT REFER TO IT DIRECTLY. HIS REPORTED INSISTANCE ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON ALL THREE FRONTS AIMS DIRECTLY AT ACCUSATION OF GOE INTENTION ARRANGE SEPARATE DEAL WITH ISRAEL.
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